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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

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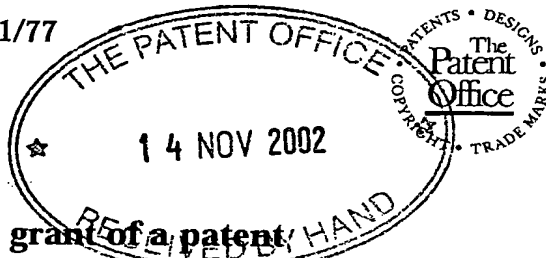


Signed

Stephen Hordley

Dated 9 September 2003





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Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

HL83483/000/ASG

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

14 NOV 2002

0226625.2

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

VIRGINIA POOLE
Compton Casey House, Whithington
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
GL54 4DE

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

8085102001

4. Title of the invention

A CONTAINER HAVING AN INSECT GUARD

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

Haseltine Lake

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Imperial House
15-19 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6UD

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

34001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

No

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form -

Description 4 /

Claim(s) 1 /

Abstract 1 /

Drawing(s) 4 *74 Jim*

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents -

Translations of priority documents -

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77) -

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) 1 /

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77) -

Any other documents (please specify) -

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Harold S. Giles
Signature

Date

13 November 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Mr A S Giles

[0117] 910 3200

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

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- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
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- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.
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A CONTAINER HAVING AN INSECT GUARD

This invention relates to a container having an insect guard, and particularly although not exclusively
 5 relates to a modified ring pull for a beverage can which prevents the ingress of wasps into the can.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Beverage cans with ring pulls are extremely widely used throughout the world. Certain insects are attracted to sweet beverages and can get into unattended beverage cans, so that the insect can be swallowed when a person drinks from the can. This experience is always
 15 extremely distressing, but if the insect stings, the incident can become life-threatening. The insect which is responsible for the largest number of serious incidents in Europe is the European wasp (*Vespula Germanica*).

20

STATEMENT OF INVENTION

A container having an insect guard comprising a ring pull with an opening, the insect guard being movable
 25 over an outlet of the container, the opening being sized to prevent the ingress of insects into the outlet whilst enabling the contents of the container to be poured out.

30 Preferably, the opening comprises a slot formed in the ring pull. Preferably the slot is arcuate.

Preferably, the slot is elongate and is longer than it is wide. Preferably, the width of the slot is no greater than 3.5 mm.

- 5 Preferably, the ring pull is moveable from a first position, in which the container can be opened to a second position over the said outlet.

10 Preferably, the opening comprises a recess which may be formed in an edge of the ring pull.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

15 For a better understanding of the present invention and to show how it may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawing in which:

20 Figure 1 is a top view of a closed beverage can;

Figure 2 shows a beverage can in the process of being opened;

25 Figure 3 shows a ring pull being rotated over a fluid outlet of the can; and

Figure 4 shows a ring pull acting as an insect guard by covering the fluid outlet from the can.

30 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

For the avoidance of doubt, the term "ring pull" encompasses any type, shape or size of ring pull

including a ring pull having a cover which is separate from but attached to the ring pull.

Figures 1 and 2 show a container in the form of a beverage can 2 having a top surface 4 in which is formed a fluid outlet 6. As is well known in the art, the fluid outlet 6 of the unopened can is closed by a tab of material 8 which is integrally formed with the top surface 4 of the can, and which is defined by a line of weakening 10 which runs around the periphery of the tab 8.

A ring pull 12 is rotatably connected to the top surface 4 by means of a rivet 14. The ring pull 12 comprises a base portion 16 which is connected to the rivet 14 and a grip portion 18 which is gripped by a user when the can is opened. An elongate arcuate opening 20 is formed substantially across the full width of the grip portion 18 of the ring pull 12. Furthermore, a top edge 22 of the grip portion 18 is relieved, to form a recessed portion 24 of the ring pull 12.

The can 2 is opened with the ring pull 12 in the orientation illustrated in Figure 1. The grip portion 18 is pulled upwardly by a user, so that the base portion 16 is pivoted down onto the tab 8, causing the line of weakening 10 to break and the tab to be pushed down into the drinks can, as illustrated in Figure 2.

Referring to Figure 3, the ring pull 12 is then pushed back against the top surface 4 of the can 2 and is rotated through 180°, into the orientation illustrated in Figure 4. In this orientation the grip portion 18

covers the fluid outlet 6 in the top surface 4 of the can 2. The width d1 of the arcuate opening 20, and the width d2 of the gap between the recessed portion 24 of the ring pull 12 and the radially outer edge of the fluid outlet 6 are set, so that insects can not enter the can when the can is left unattended. In a preferred embodiment, intended to prevent the ingress of European wasps, d1 and d2 are less than or equal to 3.5 mm.

10

Although in the preferred embodiment, the ring pull 12 is provided with an arcuate opening 20 of a particular shape, and the top edge 22 of the ring pull 12 is relieved to form a recessed portion 24, any combination of openings and/or recessed portions in the ring pull 12 are contemplated, provided that the contents of the can can be drunk through the opening(s) and/or recess(es) whilst the ingress of specific insects is prevented.

20

CLAIMS

1. A container having an insect guard comprising a ring pull with an opening, the insect guard being
5 moveable over an outlet of the container, the opening being sized to prevent the ingress of insects into the outlet whilst enabling the contents of the container to be poured out.
- 10 2. A container as claimed in claim 1, in which the opening comprises a slot formed in the ring pull.
3. A container as claimed in claim 2, in which the slot is arcuate.
- 15 4. A container as claimed in claim 2 or 3, in which the slot is elongate and is longer than it is wide, the width of the slot being less than or equal to 3.5 mm.
- 20 5. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the ring pull is moveable from a first position in which the container can be opened to a second position over the said outlet.
- 25 6. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the opening comprises a recess.
7. A container as claimed in claim 6, in which the recess is formed in an edge of the ring pull.
- 30 8. A container substantially as described herein with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

ABSTRACTA CONTAINER HAVING AN INSECT GUARD

5 A container having an insect guard comprising a ring
pull 12 with an opening 20, the insect guard being
moveable over an outlet 6 of the container 2. The
opening 20 is sized to prevent the ingress of insects
into the outlet 6, whilst enabling the contents of the
container 2 to be poured out.

10

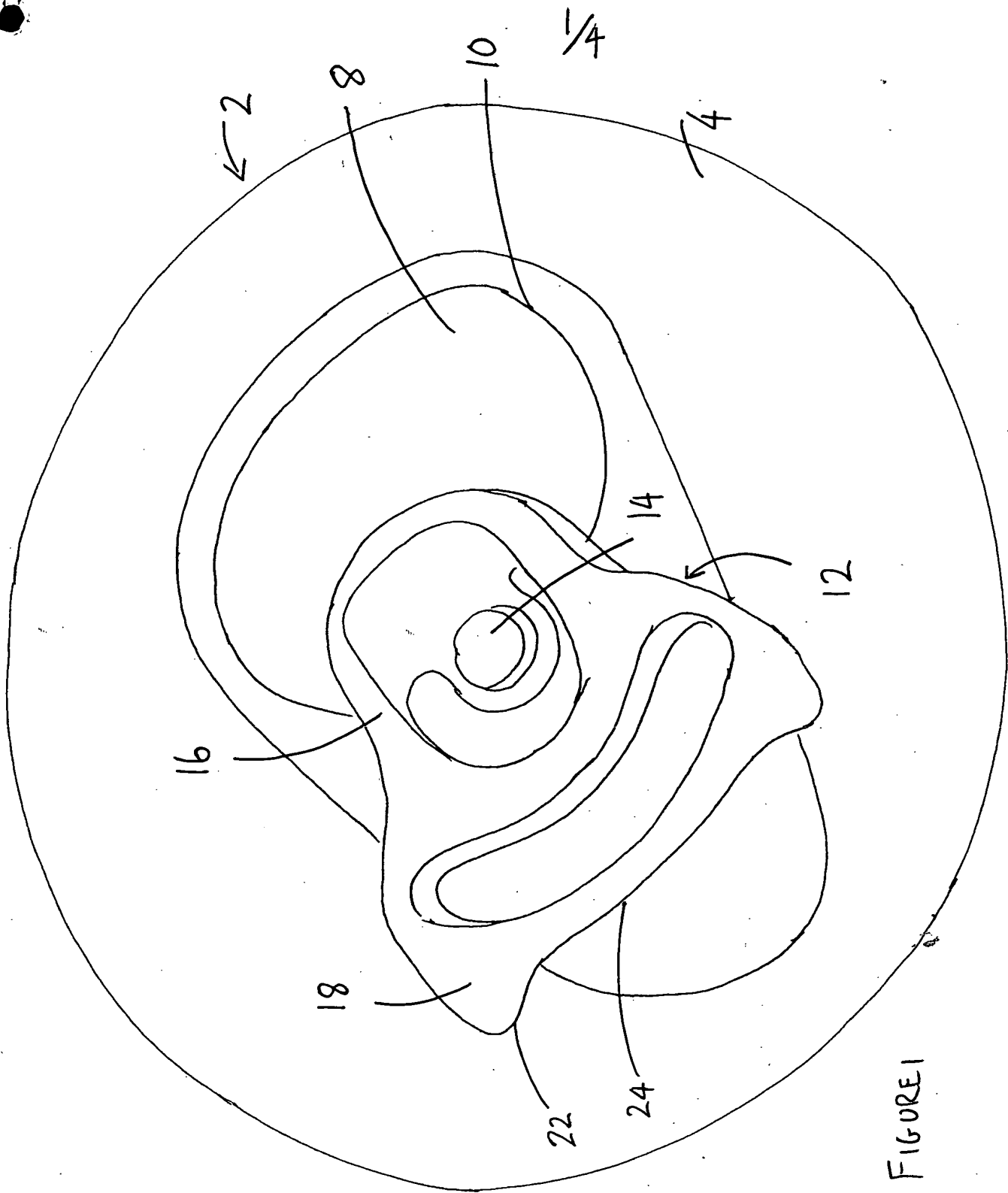


FIGURE 1

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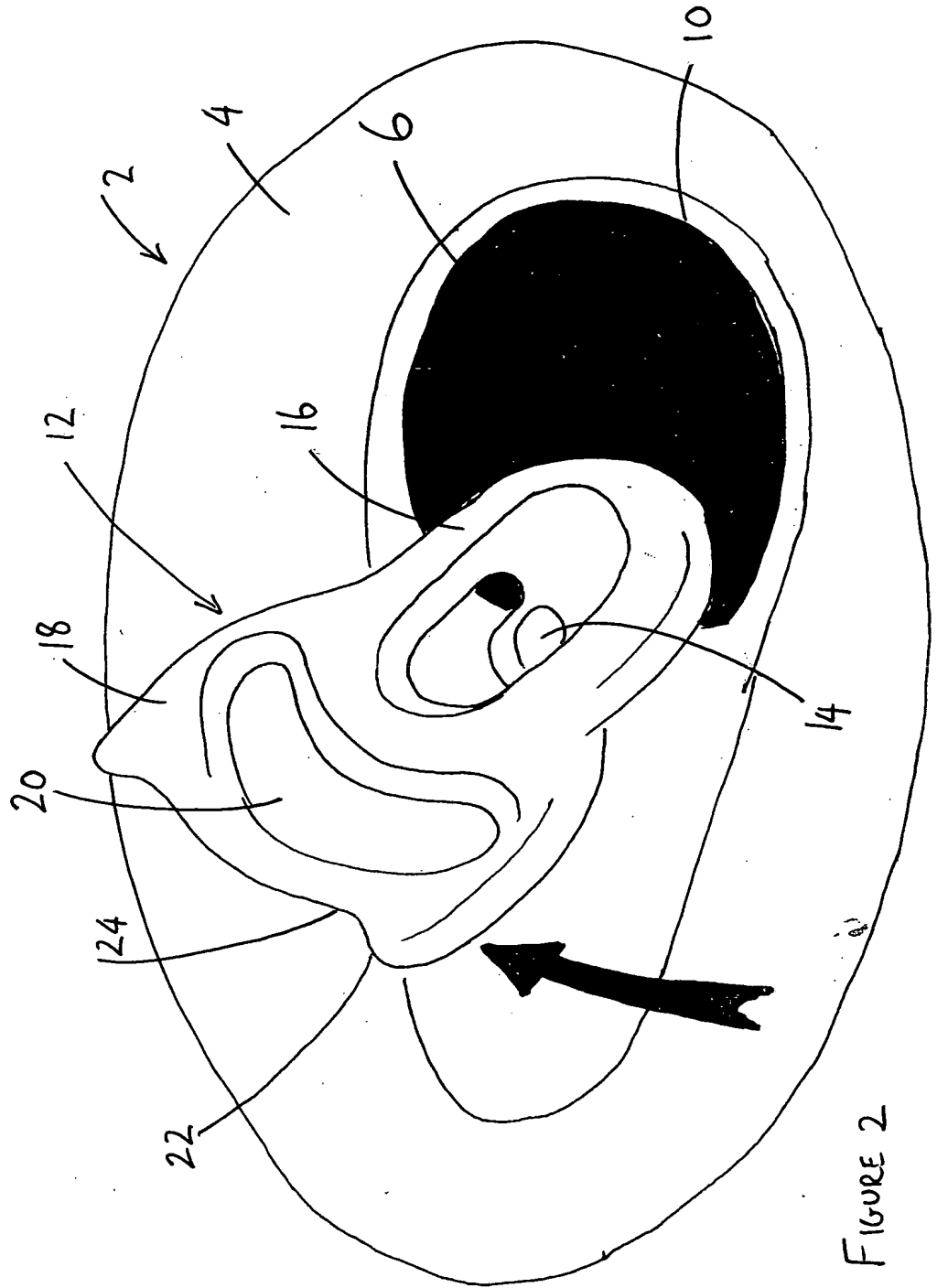


FIGURE 2

3/4

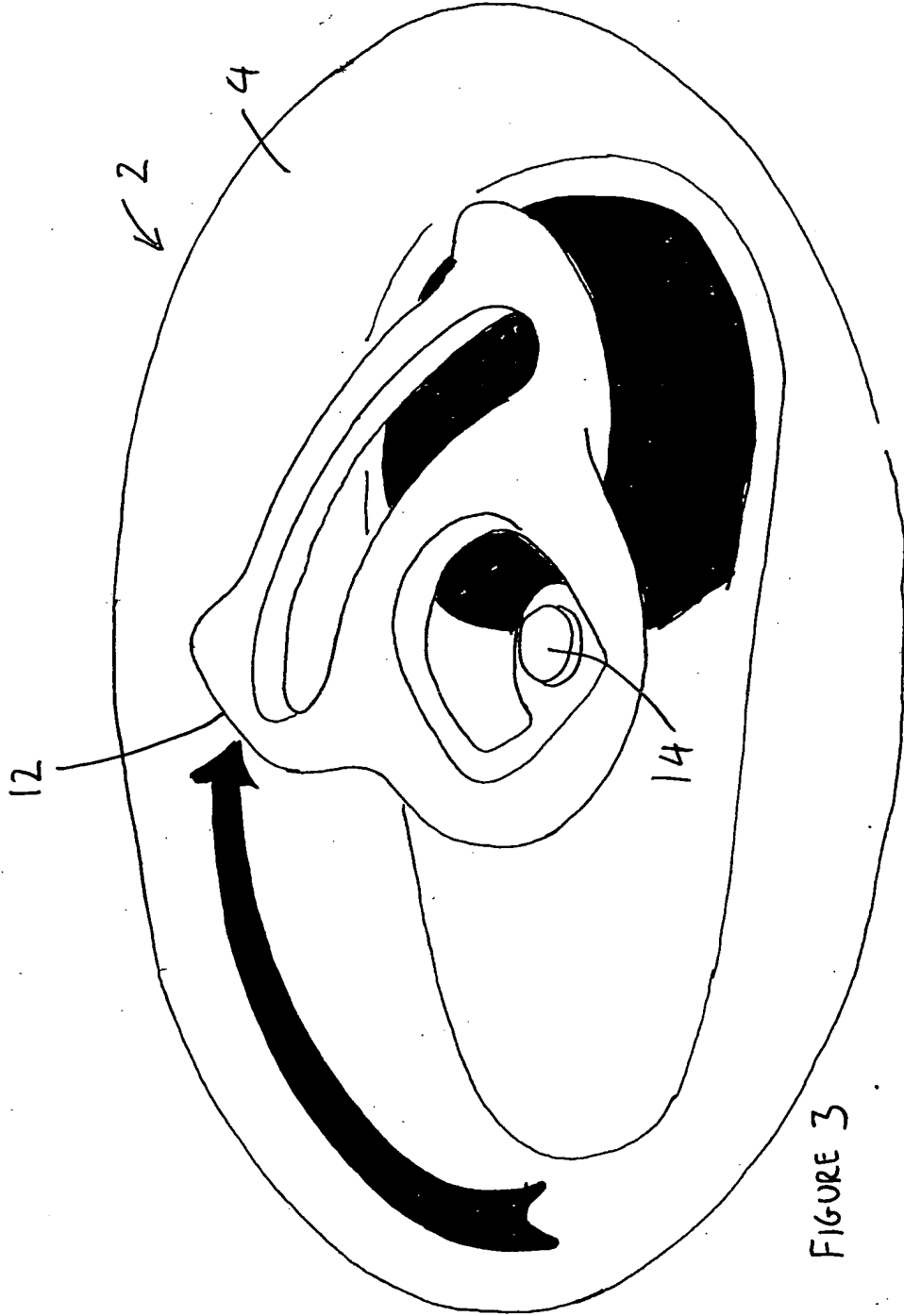


FIGURE 3

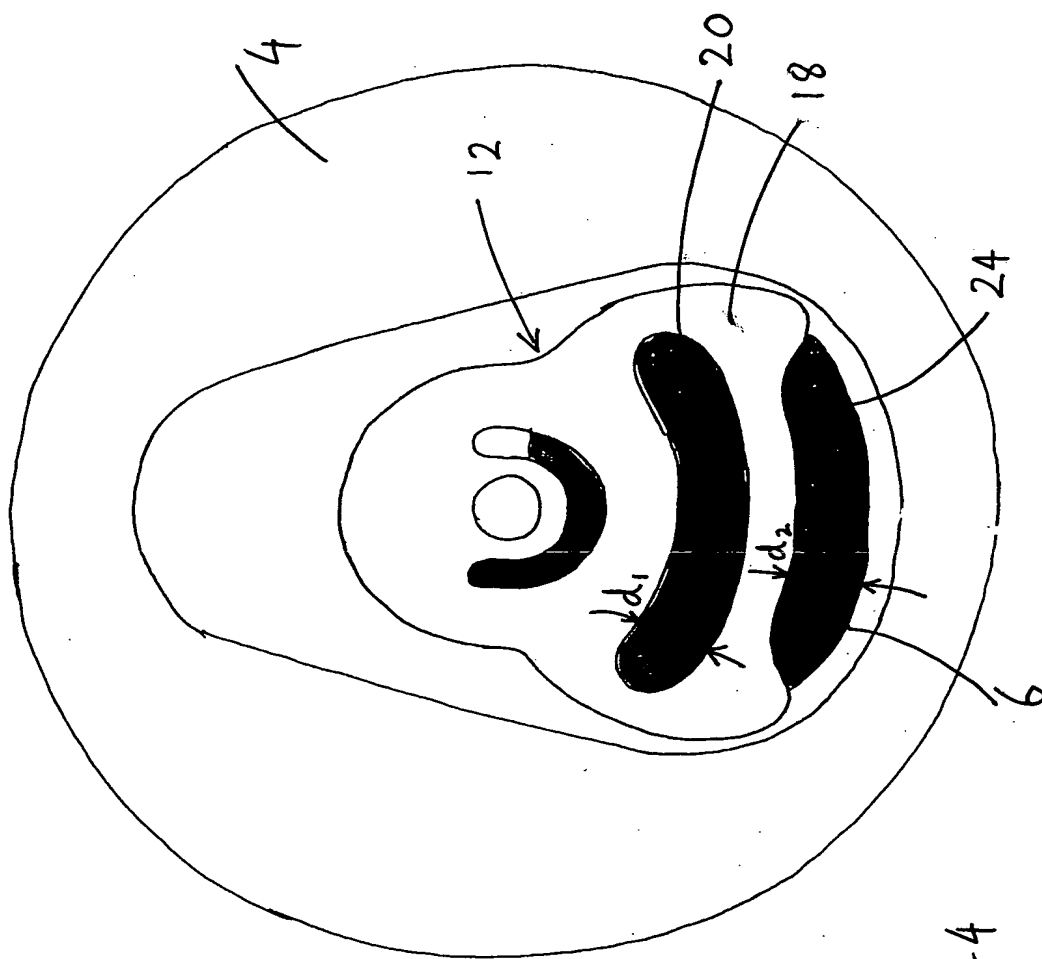


FIGURE 4

